

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-9 and 13-32(canceled).

10. (original) A method of producing rolling elements for a rolling bearing, comprising:
placing a wire material of predetermined length in a space that is defined by at least first and second molds and has a predetermined shape;

forge-forming the wire material into a blank ball for each rolling elements, said blank ball including an outer diameter portion becoming a rolling contact face that has curvatures in an axial direction thereof and a radial direction normal to the axial direction and including at least one plane; and

removing an extra flesh from the outer diameter portion of the blank ball, to thereby produce each of the rolling elements.

11. (original) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:
releasing the blank ball thus forge-formed from the space, before the removing step is carried out.

12. (original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the blank ball thus forge-formed has a connecting portion that is located between the rolling contact face and one of the at least one plane and has a predetermined radius of curvature.